

Missouri

FFA Today

January/February 2002

Ahead of the Game

By Erica Coble

Internships help
students prepare
for the real world

FFA members can continue "Learning to Do" during their college careers. Internships are giving college students the experiences they need to get ahead in a competitive agricultural workplace.

College students in Missouri are discovering the value of internships. From summer internships to semester internships, students have found that this real-life work experience gives them the opportunity they need to ex-

plore their chosen career path. Internships have a high success rate and are strongly recommended by university faculty across the state.

Northwest Missouri State University's Internship and Employment Coordinator Nancy Diggs strongly encourages her students to pursue internships.

"At Northwest Missouri State we stress to students the importance of internships. Most of our students who participate in an internship experience develop a network of contacts in the professional world," explains Diggs.

It is that "real-life" experience that makes internships so appealing to college students. Whether working a summer for an agribusiness like

John Deere or working a semester in Washington D.C., students have the chance to explore cultures and professions that interest them before they enter the job market.

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Ready for Summer?

State FFA Camp is right around the corner.
See page C for details.

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Did You Know?

Missouri's Top 7 Courses in Agricultural Education

1. Agricultural Science I
2. Agricultural Science II
3. Agricultural Construction
4. Animal Science
5. Greenhouse Operation & Management
6. Agricultural Structures
7. Conservation & Natural Resources

Jabber from Jamie... We Must Press On

There will be times in our lives that we disappoint ourselves or when we disappoint others. We have all heard "Everyone makes mistakes." I think most of us have gotten the advice to get back up again when you fall. I have given speeches and workshops with lessons that are hard to learn and rules that are even harder to live by. No one is perfect, though.

It seems that when we mess up, others can take advantage of this and remind us of our mistakes. Sometimes we remind ourselves. I am stricter on myself than anyone else's discipline is on me. It is at this time that we need to take the lesson we learn and go on with our lives. We will all fail at different times in our lives. It is what we do after we fail that will determine what kind of people we are. Will you get up, go on, and try again? Or, will you stop, say that you messed up and feel guilty or blame others? We must learn from our mistakes. We must admit when things in our life aren't right and work to change them. We must be willing to work to be the kind of people we are supposed to be. We must work to be a leader. Leadership is not easy. True leaders don't have titles... they have missions.

FFA members, as leaders it is important to give the best of ourselves, and to help others reach their ultimate potential while working toward reaching our own. Potential is an undeveloped gift, talent, or opportunity that is waiting to be an achievement. We can't give up because we have to press on to achieve our goal and to inspire others to reach theirs.

Other people will disappoint you. Things will not bring you ultimate happiness. The way that you react to situations and people will make the ultimate difference in how we live our lives. If we want to be miserable we can. But, if we want to make a dif-



Jamie Lile
State President

ference and make a mark in this world we cannot give up - ever.

Be someone that everyone can look at and tell others who you are by your faith, action, determination, work ethic, passions and interests, and relationships with others.

I am not perfect. I don't expect anyone else to be. A friend told me the other day that our lives will always be works in progress. The Lord is molding us into the people we are supposed to be. He is patient with us, and in turn we must be patient with ourselves and others. We must give the best of ourselves while giving the best to others. We cannot be afraid to fail. If things do not work out, though, we have to get up and go on with our lives.

I have always loved the quote, "Dance like no one is watching, and love like it is never going to hurt." FFA members, I dare you to dance! It may not be easy, but I know you can do it. Good luck and God Bless America. I believe that you can MAKE IT HAPPEN!

2001/2002

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Leadership, Scholarship Programs Offered

The Missouri Department of Agriculture is offering a unique educational opportunity to Missouri high school sophomores considering a career in agriculture. Through its Missouri Agribusiness Academy, the department gives students the opportunity to learn more about the state's diverse agricultural industry and what types of jobs are available.

Academy participants tour agribusiness operations and are introduced to new technology and leaders in agriculture, government and education. Members are selected based on their written applications and interviews.

Applications are available from FFA advisors and high school counselors or on-line at www.mda.state.mo.us. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2002.

Missouri high school seniors planning to pursue degrees in agriculture or related fields, such as family and consumer sciences, could be eligible for financial aid from the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Students can get scholarship applications from their high school counselors and FFA advisors, or by visiting the department's web site at www.mda.state.mo.us. All applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2002.

Plan Now for Camp

With the weather still cold and blustery, it might be a little tough to think about what you'll be doing this summer, but it's really not too early to begin planning for State FFA Camp. This year's event is set for June 3-July 12 at Camp Rising Sun near Lake of the Ozarks.

From meeting new people to improving your communication skills, making new friends and taking some chances, FFA Camp has a wealth of activities lined up for you including session on motivation and leadership. Plenty of outdoor activities are planned as well. You could learn to ski, go swimming and canoeing. Volleyball, basketball, softball and trapshooting are other popular sporting events during the camp.

For more information on attending State FFA Camp, contact your chapter advisor. FFA Camp advanced fees are due May 15.

**Colleen Griswold
directs leadership
training during the
2001 State FFA Camp.**



GET IN THE GAME

By Getting Informed About Your
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University of Missouri-Columbia

Head Start

By Kaci Ballou

Stuart Shifflett has been working around the farm since he was very young. Now 15 and a sophomore at King City High School, he has developed a beef herd and expanded his lawn mowing business, beginning a successful SAE project.

Stuart showed crossbred Angus steers for five years before deciding to start his own herd of Angus cattle. His herd began Stuart's freshman year of high school when he took out a loan to purchase five breeding heifers. These heifers produced four calves, which Stuart will sell to pay off his loan. This year Stuart has purchased five more heifers, and is planning to show two steers and two heifers. Next show season, with his larger show string, he is planning to show at county fairs, the Northwest Missouri State Fair, and possibly the Missouri State Fair.



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Agribusiness
Agriscience
Animal Science
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Ahead of the Game

Continued from Page A

University of Missouri freshman, Sara Brown, Centraillia, started her internship experience off early. This year, she was selected as an intern for Proceedings, a post-convention publication for the National FFA. Brown's internship experience involved writing stories and convention highlights during the 74th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky. Brown says she would recommend an internship to anyone who wants to find out what being in a career is about.

"My internship experience was a learning experience and a lot of fun. Internships give students a real world example and idea of what to expect in the professional world," explains Brown.

There are many types of internships available to today's students. A lot of universities like Southeast Missouri State University, the University of Missouri-Columbia and Southwest Missouri State University have made an

internship experience a required course for many agricultural majors. Many employers will offer students semester and summer internships. Paid internships are a great asset for students, but unpaid internships can provide students with experience that will pay later.

Tanya Koger, a senior animal science major at SMSU in Springfield encourages students to take on internships even if they are unpaid. She feels that her recent internship with the Missouri Cattleman's Association will give her the experience she needs to land a solid job after graduation.

"Working for the Missouri Cattleman's was a good experience for me because I'm interested in working in some area of the livestock industry. Through this internship, I was able to gain knowledge, meet leaders in the beef industry and learn about the producers concerns," explains Koger.

Continued on Page H

Southwest Missouri State University

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MPA Salutes FFA

Today's FFA members are tomorrow's leaders, both in production agriculture and in agribusiness. The Missouri Pork Association is proud to assist Missouri's FFA members in gaining those leadership skills. For National FFA Week, we say "Keep Up the Good Work."

Be a part of these youth activities:

- ♦ Annual Missouri Youth Pork Institute - June 17-19
- ♦ State Fair Swine Skillathon - August 10
- ♦ State Fair Swine Judging Contests - August 10

**Don't miss these youth
activities during the
Missouri Pork Expo**

February 26
10 a.m. - FFA Pork Speaking
Contest State Finals
1 p.m. - Youth Sales & Marketing
Contest



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6235 West Cunningham Drive
Columbia, MO 65202
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573/446-2398 (fax)
pork@mppa.net
www.mppa.net

Believe in Your Dreams

When you lay your head down at night, do you let your mind wonder into sweet dreams? Or, how about when you're in that high school class that is not so interesting to you, do you daydream?

FFA members, I will have to answer yes to both of those questions; I dream during the day and night. I dream of tractors, farming, trucks and about living my life out the way I want it to turn out. Whatever it is you dream about, do you believe in those dreams? That is the most important question of all; do you believe in your dreams?

For a dream to come true you have to believe in it. Without faith in yourself and in your dreams you will never accomplish them. Take myself as an example. When I was a freshman I entered Ag Science I. There I was, a kid without any knowledge or experience in the FFA or in high school and all I had was a dream of what I wanted to be. Area V Star Farmer, that was a pretty big dream for a boy with no more than a heifer, an H Farmall, and 12 share-cropped acres of beans, but I believed that I could make this dream come true.

So finally, after four years of hard work and dedication this dream came true. I was chosen as Area V Star Farmer. My dream had come true with the help of my ag advisors, my parents and a lot of hours building my SAE project into the operation it is today.

I had another dream that came true this year, too. That was to serve as Area V's state officer. This dream came true because of you. Thank you FFA members for inspiring me to follow my dreams.

Take advantage of all of the opportunities; they are doors opening into new dreams. So, make the most of

it. The dreams you dream will come true with time, hard work and dedication.

Your dreams will bring you happiness and confidence, they will make others proud of your success, and most of all they will inspire someone else; maybe you've never met the person, but you will inspire them to make their dreams come true. That is the greatest reward of your dreams - making a difference in someone else's life. Each one of you has been an inspiration to me. Your success has inspired me to reach even higher, and the respect you have for the FFA has inspired me to help lead our great Missouri FFA Association. I hope I inspire some of you to follow your dreams because this is



your life to live. Dream it, Live it, and "Make it Happen."

By Jason Hayes
State FFA 1st V.P.
Area V

Head Start - Continued from Page D

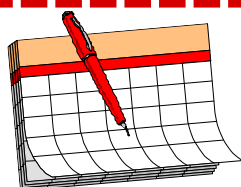
Stuart inherited his like of the Angus breed from his grandfather, Lee Shifflett, who has raised the breed for several years, and from his father who raised Angus when he was in school. Stuart and his father, agriculture advisor Steve Shifflett, and grandfather spend much of their time working on the family's farm in Amity. Stuart is happy with his first calf crop. "They calved easily, have gained well, and are eating pretty good right now." He enjoys showing Angus and Angus crosses because of their build and color. "I like black, they show better and their hair is easier to care for," he notes.

In addition to his cattle project, Stuart also stays busy with a lawn mowing business. He started out mowing his grandparent's lawn, and the operation has grown from there. "I branched out this year and am now mowing five yards," says Stuart. Even with the sum-

mer mowing season over, Stuart is still busy mowing for his customers when they call. Due to his recent success, both his father and grandfather have gone in on partnerships with him to purchase a John Deere riding mower and a front deck Grasshopper mower.

Along with his cattle project and mowing business, Stuart is also active in school and FFA. He plays basketball at King City and will soon be acting in a school play. Last year Stuart participated in the dairy foods contest through his FFA chapter and qualified for state competition. He also enjoys participating in public speaking, and plans to continue working on his skills.

Another goal Stuart Shifflett has is to expand his S.A.E. project and improve his speaking skills, and he would like to run for an area and state FFA office.

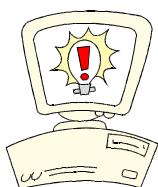


FFA Calendar

Jan

25-27 Mo Assoc. of Fairs & Festivals Convention - Columbia

Visit us on the web



[www.dese.state.mo.us/
divvoted/agric/index.html](http://www.dese.state.mo.us/divvoted/agric/index.html)

Feb

- 1 MPPA Sales & Marketing Written Plan DUE
- 1 Mo. Agribusiness Academy Apps. DUE
- 4-8 Ag Sciences Week - Univ. of Mo. - Columbia
- 15 National FFA Scholarships DUE
- 16-23 National FFA Week**
- 26-27 Mo. Pork Expo - Columbia
- 26 MPPA State Speaking Finals - Columbia
- 26 MPPA State Sales & Marketing Contest Finals - Columbia

Mar

- 1 Mo. Dept. of Ag Schol. Apps. DUE
- 2 College of the Ozarks Contest Workshops - Point Lookout
- 9 Mo. Dept. of Ag Lvstk Grading/Judging Contest - Columbia
- 18-19 Southwest Center Contest Workshops - Mount Vernon
- 20 NCMC Ag Club Contests - Trenton
- 21 Crowder Aggie Day - Neosho

Chapter Chatter

Northwest District - Savannah

Savannah FFA members will head to the slopes of Weston, Mo., in February to take part in a ski trip. The chapter also will hold an Ag Literacy Day Camp in the summer for 5th and 6th graders.

Northeast District - Newtown-Harris

Members of the Newtown-Harris FFA hold a Sunday luncheon after church services to help earn funds for the chapter. Half a hog is donated to the chapter, which serves barbeque pork and other side dishes.

South Central District - Maries Co.

FFA members at Maries Co. R-I in Vienna are working on a greenhouse project with the school's second grade students. The program helps the kids learn about plant propagation and growth. Now in its third year, the second graders can also take home a plant at the end of the semester.

Central District -Saline Co. Career Ctr.

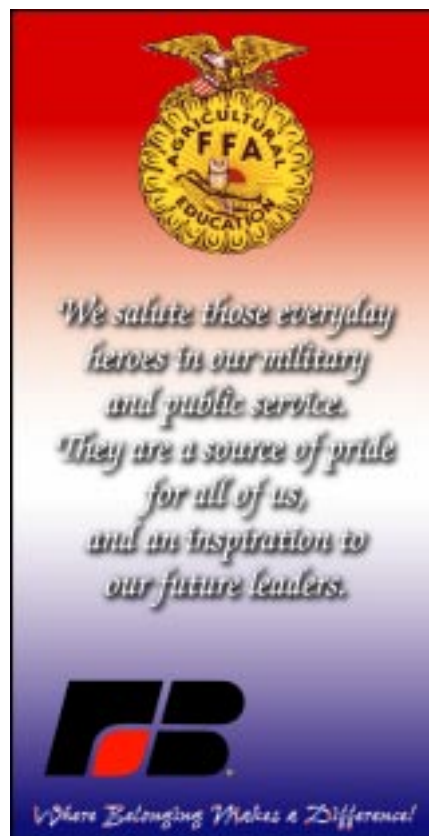
FFA members at Saline Co. Career Center are busy planning an open jackpot livestock show for May 27. The event is being co-hosted by Sweet Springs FFA.

Southeast District - Puxico

Puxico FFA members will hold farmer olympics during its FFA Week activities. Members will participate in hay bale stacking, fence post driving and corn shelling among other tasks. The chapter also experienced a large increase in ag enrollment this year with more than 100 taking part in ag classes at the school.

Southwest District - Cassville

Members of the Cassville FFA Chapter will be sponsoring a children's petting zoo for the school's Parents As Teachers program. Students will also help with a petting zoo for for Bass Pro Shops' WOW (Wonders of the Outdoor World) program, which brings 1st and 2nd graders from urban areas Roaring River State Park in Cassville.



January/February 2002

Ahead of the Game

Continued from Page E

According to Bill Ellis, animal science professor and internship coordinator at SEMO in Cape Girardeau, it's never too early to get started on an internship experience.

"Internships are the number one way in which students can make connections for employment after graduation. Not only do internships help students find what they want to do, but they also help them discover what they don't want out of a career. We encourage our students to do at least three internships during their college career. The more experience they gain now, the more prepared they will be in the future," notes Ellis.

University of Missouri sophomore, Aaron Baker, will intern this semester at the State Capitol in Jefferson City. The agriculture economics major hopes to find out if his interest in the government process is really for him. Baker will intern for State Senator John Cauthorn and work on biodiesel education and transportation bills.

"I feel that this internship will give me the chance to couple my formal education I'm receiving here at MU with hands on informal education on the job site," explains Baker.

Applying for most internships is much like applying for a job. Students are usually required to fill out an application and submit a resume. There is usually an interview process involved as well. Even though internships available to agriculture students are abundant, they are also competitive. Expressing interest and putting an application in early are some important tips to being awarded an internship.

Dr. Fred Worman, agricultural economics professor at Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, says most of their students have internships lined up for the summer by winter to early


spring.

"We have had students pursue internships every where from the USDA to Disney World. Those students that really want an internship experience have their internships lined up early. Even though internships are not a required part of our curriculum, we strongly encourage students to pursue them," says Worman.

There are a variety of resources

that can help students find out about internships available. Colleges and universities have information available in their Career Placement Offices about current internships available to students. Talking with college faculty and exploring online job postings of agribusiness's or government agencies can also provide students with the tools they need to land the summer internship that would put them ahead of the game.

As Missouri FFA celebrates another year, Farm Credit Services salutes these talented young men and women. They are today's youth and tomorrow's leaders. Call us or visit our website at www.farmcredit.com to learn what FCS has available to assist you in meeting your life long goals.

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